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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/904,923	07/13/2001	Frederick L. Hall	271010-463	4598

7590 05/27/2003

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EXAMINER

SHUKLA, RAM R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1632

DATE MAILED: 05/27/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/904,923	HALL ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ram R. Shukla	1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 20-28 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1, 20-28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicants' representative, Mr. Raymond Lillie, on April 26, 02 indicated that the restriction required issued 4-17-03 did not consider the claims filed in pre-amendments. It is noted that in the office action mailed 4-17-03, because the claims presented in the preliminary amendments filed 1-14-02 and 1-14-03 were not entered due to an advertent error, only claims originally filed with the application were examined. The restriction requirement mailed 4-17-03 is hereby vacated and a new restriction requirement is set forth.

2. Claims 2-19 have been cancelled. New claims 20-28 have been added.

3. Claims 1 and 20-28 are pending in the instant application.

Election/Restriction

4. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

I. Claims 1, 20-23, drawn to a vector particle comprising a modified viral surface protein, classified in class 435, subclass 320.1.

II. Claims 25-28, drawn to polynucleotide encoding a retroviral envelope polypeptide and a retroviral vector comprising the polynucleotide, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.

III. Claims 24, drawn to a retroviral envelope polypeptide, classified in class 530, subclass 350.

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5. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The inventions of the groups II and III are patentably distinct from each other because they are drawn to different compositions that have different physical and chemical properties and have different utilities. For example, the structure of a nucleic acid is different from that of a protein. Additionally, the utilities of a nucleic acid molecule include making probes and vectors whereas the utilities of a protein molecule include production of antibodies. The invention of group I is drawn to a vector particle which has different structure compared to the polynucleotide of group II that encodes a retroviral envelope protein. Therefore, the inventions of the groups I-III are patentably distinct each from the other and their analysis will require separate searches in the non-patent literature.

6. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art shown by their different classification and their recognized divergent subject matter, and because each invention requires a separate, non-coextensive search, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

7. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram R. Shukla whose telephone number is (703) 305-1677. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Deborah Reynolds, can be reached on

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(703) 305-4051. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-4242. The after-final fax number is (703) 87209307. Any inquiry of a general nature, formal matters or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the William Phillips whose telephone number is (703) 305-3413.



RAM SHUKLA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Ram R. Shukla, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1632